



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) Program

PURPOSE

- To provide technical assistance for business development and conduct economic development planning in rural areas (less than 50,000 population).

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- Public bodies
- Cooperatives
- Private nonprofit corporations

USE OF GRANT FUNDS

- Identify and analyze business opportunities that will use local rural materials or human resources, including export markets, feasibility and business plan studies.
- Identify, train, and provide technical assistance to existing or prospective rural entrepreneurs and managers.
- Establish business support centers and otherwise assist in the creation of new rural businesses.
- Conduct local community or multi-county economic development planning.
- Establish centers for training, technology and trade that will provide training to rural businesses in the utilization of interactive communications technologies to develop international trade opportunities and markets.
- Establish leadership development training of existing or prospective rural entrepreneurs and managers
- Pay reasonable fees and charges for professional services necessary to conduct the technical assistance, training, or planning functions.

Grants will be made only when:

- There is a reasonable prospect that the project will result in the economic development of a rural area.
- The proposal includes a basis for determining the success or failure of the project and individual major elements of the project and outlines procedures that will be taken to assess the project's impact at its conclusion.
- The proposed project is consistent with local and area-wide strategic plans for community and economic development.
- The project can reasonably be expected to be completed within 2 full years after it is begun.

MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM GRANT AMOUNTS

- No minimum
- \$50,000 maximum

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications may be submitted to any USDA – Rural Development Area Office or State Office.
- Applications are selected on a nationwide competitive basis.
- Contact any USDA – Rural Development Area Office or State Office for established application deadlines and application assistance.

SELECTION FACTORS

- Sustainability
- Improvements in the quality of economic activity
- Commitment of nonfederal funding sources
- Natural disaster designation
- Major structural changes in the local economy
- Long-term poverty
- Long-term population decline
- Long-term job deterioration
- A new best practice
- State Director discretionary points

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the USDA - Rural Development State Office in Des Moines at 515-284-4714 or one of our USDA - Rural Development Area Offices shown below. TDD for hearing impaired (515) 284-4858.

▪ Iowa Falls	641-648-5181	▪ Indianola	515-961-5365
▪ Waverly	319-352-1715	▪ Atlantic	712-243-2107
▪ Tipton	563-886-6006	▪ Le Mars	712-546-5149
▪ Mount Pleasant	319-986-5800	▪ Storm Lake	712-732-1851
▪ Albia	641-932-3031	▪ Humboldt	515-332-4411

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